

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 10956

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, CB, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT TO TOKYO OF CAMBODIAN VICE PREMIER

REF: A. TOKYO 10446; B. TOKYO 10763

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH JAPANESE LEADERS
AND IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING JUNE 11-13 VISIT TO TOKYO,
CAMBODIAN VICE PREMIER IENG SARY EMPHASIZED TREACHERY OF
VIETNAMESE, PEACEFUL INTENT OF CAMBODIA, ESPECIALLY
VIS-A-VIS ASEAN, AND CAMBODIAN DESIRE TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY
RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN. HE DECLARED ALL WAS WELL WITHIN
CAMBODIA. JAPANESE SIDE ANNOUNCED DECISION TO ACCREDIT
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AMBASSADOR TO PRC SATO TO PHNOM PENH, WHICH WAS WELCOMED
BY SARY, INQUIRED INTO CAMBODIAN INTERNAL SITUATION, AND
ASKED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING MISSING JAPANESE
JOURNALISTS. JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND JAPAN-
CAMBODIA TRADEWERE TOUCHED ON ONLY BRIEFLY. END SUMMARY

2. DURING THREE-DAY VISIT TO TOKYO, IENG SARY MET WITH

FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA AND WAS GUEST AT DINNER HOSTED BY SONODA, PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER, WAS GUEST AT RECEPTION ARRANGED BY JAPAN-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE. SARY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THIOUNN-PRASITH, DESCRIBED BY MOFA AS CAMBODIA'S SEMI-PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, 48; KEAT-CHHON, WHO CARRIED TITLE OF AMBASSADOR, AND ACCORDING TO MOFA WAS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY UNDER SIHANOUK AND MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE UNDER GRUNK, 43; NY-KAN, "AMBASSADOR", 35; AND IN-SOPHUAP, UN DIVISION DIRECTOR IN CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, 35. ACCORDING TO MOFA, ALL EXCEPT NY-KAN SPOKE BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HIGHLIGHTS OF TOKYO CONVERSATIONS, AS RECOUNTED BY MOFA FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION OFFICIAL, FOLLOW:

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA MET WITH SARY FOR 45 MINUTES AT FOREIGN MINISTRY GUEST HOUSE JUNE 12. SONODA BEGAN CONVERSATION BY NOTING GOJ INTENTION TO APPOINT AMBASSADOR TO PRC SATO AS AMBASSADOR TO PHNOM PENH. SARY SAID CAMBODIA WOULD BE PLEASED TO ACCEPT SATO AND WOULD WELCOME HIM TO PHNOM PENH ANYTIME HE WISHED TO COME. SONODA RECALLED BEAUTY OF CAMBODIA AS HE REMEMBERED IT FROM BRIEF VISIT DURING WW II STINT IN INDOCHINA THEATER, AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT JAPAN AND REST OF OUTSIDE WORLD KNEW LITTLE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON WITHIN CAMBODIA, WITH MAJOR SOURCE OF INFORMATION BEING REFUGEES. JAPANESE FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO LEARN MORE, AND TO DEVELOP BALANCED APPRECIATION OF SITUATION IN COUNTRY, AND FOR THIS REASON WANTED DIRECT CONTACT WITH CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. SONODA ASKED SARY TO DESCRIBE CONDITIONS WITHIN CAMBODIA. SARY SAID CAMBODIA WELCOMED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN, AND WOULD HAVE MOVED IN THAT DIRECTION EARLIER HAD CONDITIONS PERMITTED. SONODA SAID JAPAN WAS PREPARED TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITIES CONCERNING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SARY RESPONDED THAT CAMBODIAN SIDE WOULD BE INTERESTED, AND WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS THOSE PROSPECTS IN MORE DETAIL WHEN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SATO TRAVELED TO PHNOM PENH.

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4. WITH RESPECT TO SITUATION WITHIN CAMBODIA, SARY SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, HAVING PREVIOUSLY TOUCHED UPON THAT SUBJECT IN CONVERSATION WITH ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL NAKAE. (ACCORDING TO MOFA OFFICIAL, THAT CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE DURING ONE-HOUR AIRPORT STOPOVER JUNE 4 WHEN IENG SARY AND PARTY WERE ENROUTE TO NEW YORK. OFFICIAL CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHAT WAS SAID.) SARY SAID CAMBODIAN REGIME OF COURSE

HAD NO INTENTION OF KILLING ITS OWN PEOPLE; ON CONTRARY, GOVERNMENT VALUED HUMAN LIFE AND HOPED CAMBODIAN POPULATION COULD INCREASE RAPIDLY, SINCE MANPOWER WAS URGENTLY NEEDED. LATER IN CONVERSATION, SARY SAID ALLEGATION THAT PHNOM PENH POPULATION HAD DECLINED FROM 2,000,000 TO 20,000 WAS PATENTLY FALSE. POPULATION OF CITY NOW STOOD AT SOME 200,000, WHICH WAS PROPER LEVEL IN VIEW OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND INDUSTRIES WERE THRIVING. HE PUT POPULATION OF COUNTRY AT NO LESS THAN 8 MILLION.

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5. SARY THEN LAUNCHED INTO LENGTHY AND DETAILED INDICTMENT OF VIETNAM. HE SAID DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN BROKEN, NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF BORDER CONFLICT, BUT RATHER IN VIEW OF THREAT VIETNAM WAS POSING TO INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND HONOR OF CAMBODIAN NATION. CAMBODIANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED PEACE AFTER LONG GUERILLA STRUGGLE, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT IF NECESSARY.

6. SARY RECOUNTED SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF VIETNAMESE PERFIDY. HE SAID VIETNAMESE MADE CONCERTED EFFORT TO OVERTHROW CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP IN MARCH 1975, BEFORE PHNOM PENH HAD

FALLEN, WHICH WAS SEVERELY DISILLUSIONING TO KHMER ROUGE.
CONTINUING, SARY SAID THAT IN DECEMBER 1972, LE DUC THO,
ENROUTE HOME FROM PARIS, MET WITH SIHANOUK AND
PENN NOUTH IN PEKING TO ASK CAMBODIA TO LAY DOWN ITS ARMS
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IN LINE WITH U.S.-VIETNAM AGREEMENT. IF NOT, VIETNAMESE
WOULD CEASE SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA. CAMBODIANS OF COURSE
REFUSED. WARMING TO TOPIC, SARY DESCRIBED MAY 1973
VIETNAMESE ATTEMPT TO TOPPLE KHMER ROUGE LEADERS. SARY
SAID VIETNAMESE WERE SURPRISED, AND HE IMPLIED A BIT
DISTURBED, BY SPEED WITH WHICH KHMER ROUGE ACHIEVED VICTORY,
AND BY FACT THEY HAD DONE IT WITH LITTLE SUPPORT FROM
VIETNAM. HE STRESSED DETERMINATION OF CAMBODIA TO MAINTAIN
ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM VIETNAM AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
CAMBODIA WOULD OVERCOME PROBLEMS POSED BY HANOI.
KAMPUCHEA WOULD NOT BECOME ANOTHER CHAMPA.

7. SARY ASSERTED THAT CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE WAS IMPORTANT
FOR STABILITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, IMPLYING THAT CAMBODIA WAS
NECESSARY BUFFER BETWEEN VIETNAM AND OTHER NATIONS OF
REGION. HE SAID CAMBODIA WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH
HANOI, BUT NOT WHILE VIETNAM CONTINUED TO ATTACK. IF
VIETNAMESE WOULD DEMONSTRATE PEACEFUL INTENT, THERE COULD
EVENTUALLY BE TALKS.

8. WITH RESPECT TO WHAT HE CALLED "INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION",
SARY SAID RICE PRODUCTION HAD RISEN AND WAS NOW MORE THAN
ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT POPULATION; IN FACT RICE SURPLUS WAS
BEING EXPORTED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IRRIGATION SYSTEM
HAD BEEN EXPANDED AND NOW ENCOMPASSED 50 PERCENT OF
CULTIVABLE LAND, PERMITTING DRY-SEASON PRODUCTION.
CAMBODIANS WERE CONCENTRATING ON BASIC INDUSTRIES SUCH AS
CEMENT, GLASS MANUFACTURE, LUMBER, AND TEXTILES. CEMENT
PRODUCTION HAD RISEN TO 500,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR.
ASKED WHETHER CAMBODIA WAS DOING ANYTHING TO FOLLOW UP ON
PROJECTS BEGUN UNDER MEKONG DEVELOPMENT PLAN AUSPICES,
SARY SAID WORK WAS CONTINUING ON PREK NOT RIVER DAM.

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9. SONODA SAID THAT JAPAN CONTINUED TO BE DEEPLY
CONCERNED WITH RESPECT TO FATE OF JAPANESE JOURNALISTS
WHO HAD DISAPPEARED IN CAMBODIA DURING HOSTILITIES. SARY'S
RESPONSE WAS PRECISELY WHAT HE HAD TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER
MIYAZAWA IN THEIR 1976 MEETING; CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES HAD

RUN THOROUGH CHECK FOLLOWING THEIR VICTORY IN 1975, AND HAD ASCERTAINED THAT THERE WERE NO FOREIGN SURVIVORS. SARY PROMISED TO PROVIDE JAPANESE ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE CONCERNING REMAINS OF JAPANESE JOURNALISTS.

10. SARY'S THIRTY-MINUTE COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER JUNE 13 COVERED MUCH OF SAME GROUND. IN CONNECTION WITH APPOINTMENT OF SATO AS AMBASSADOR TO PHNOM PENH, FUKUDA INQUIRED INTO CONDITION OF JAPANESE EMBASSY PREMISES. SARY SAID EXTERIOR HAD BEEN FAIRLY HEAVILY DAMAGED DURING HOSTILITIES. HE SAID CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE IN WHICH ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES WOULD BE SITUATED. YUGOSLAVS HAD ASKED TO BUY THEIR OWN LAND AND CONSTRUCT OWN BUILDING, BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN.

11. PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED HIS AUGUST 1977 SPEECH IN MANILA (FUKUDA DOCTRINE), RECALLING THAT HE HAD UNDERScoreD JAPANESE DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ASEAN, WHILE AT SAME TIME ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH NATIONS OF INDOCHINA. SARY VISIT TO TOKYO WAS IN KEEPING WITH THAT POLICY. SARY PRAISED PRIME MINISTER'S MANILA SPEECH, AND NOTED THERE HAD BEEN FAVORABLE ATTENTION IN PHNOM PENH TO PRIME MINISTER'S SOUTHEAST ASIA TRAVELS. SARY SAID CAMBODIA WISHED TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY TIES WITH ASEAN STATES. CAMBODIANS HAD ORIGINALLY BELIEVED ASEAN TO BE ESSENTIALLY MILITARY GROUPING, BUT NOW REALIZED IT WAS PEACEFUL IN CHARACTER, AND PRIMARILY ECONOMIC. REVERTING TO HIS

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FAVORITE THEME, SARY SAID VIETNAM HAD ASKED CAMBODIA TO JOIN IN AN ANTI-ASEAN FRONT IN 1975. IN 1977, AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING, VIETNAMESE AGAIN TRIED TO ENLIST CAMBODIANS AGAINST ASEAN, AND AGAIN FAILED. SARY RECALLED HIS OWN MEETINGS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS IN NEW YORK AND DURING VISITS TO REGION. HE HAD HAD FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH LEE KUAN YEW, ADAM MALIK AND PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES. LATTER GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING NOMINATING AMBASSADOR TO PHNOM PENH.

12. PRIME MINISTER ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF MISSING JAPANESE JOURNALISTS, AND RECEIVED SAME RESPONSE SARY HAD GIVEN SONODA. PRIME MINISTER NOTED HE HAD SEEN YUGOSLAVIAN-PRODUCED FILM ON SITUATION INSIDE CAMBODIA, COULD WELL IMAGINE DIFFICULTIES FACING COUNTRY, AND
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EXPRESSED HOPE FOR CAMBODIAN SUCCESS IN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. HE SAID SARY WOULD BE WELCOME IN JAPAN WHENEVER HE WISHED TO RETURN.

13. ALTHOUGH MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE HAD LITTLE TIME TO REFLECT ON SARY VISIT, SINCE THEY CURRENTLY ARE MAKING FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR SONODA'S JUNE 16 DEPARTURE FOR BANGKOK, INITIAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT FROM JAPANESE POINT OF VIEW, MODEST PURPOSE WAS SERVED SIMPLY IN THAT CONTACT WAS BROADENED WITH CAMBODIAN REGIME. AS FOR CAMBODIAN OBJECTIVES, JAPANESE ASSUMED SARY VISIT WAS PART OF LARGER CAMPAIGN TO CULTIVATE DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN CONTINUING CONFLICT WITH VIETNAM. MOFA OFFICIALS WERE IMPRESSED WITH SARY AS INTERLOCUTER. HE APPEARED AUTHORITATIVE AND EXHIBITED SOME OF SHREWDNESS WHICH HAD PERMITTED HIM TO SURVIVE CONSTANT INTRIGUES WITHIN CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP.

14. HIGHLIGHTS OF SARY'S JUNE 13 PRESS CONFERENCE WERE REPORTED REF B. MOFA OFFICIALS DID NOT HAVE READOUT ON WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED DURING SONODA-HOSTED DINNER. OTHER EVENT ON SARY'S SCHEDULE, RECEPTION ARRANGED BY JAPAN-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, FEATURED CAMBODIAN FILM CONCERNING CONFLICT WITH VIETNAM. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF SARY VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE; REPRESENTATIVE ARTICLES ARE BEING POUCHED EA/VLC AND EA/J. MANSFIELD

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